



Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>

HIGHLY SENSITIVE

Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>

Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 11:49 AM

To: "Gonzales-Schreiner, Roseann" <rgonzales-schreiner@usgs.gov>, Julie Wozniak <jwozniak@usgs.gov>

Roseann/Julie,

Murray has submitted his resignation to Bill. We are going to need your help to navigate this situation. Could you give me a call on my cell 703-395-5790? I want to understand how this plays out from an HR standpoint. We have not made any announcement yet nor likely will until we have an actor in place.

Murray is on personal travel overseas but will be back in the office on Thursday to take care of whatever is needed to close things out.

Thanks, Dave

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111, Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hitzman, Murray** <mhitzman@usgs.gov>

Date: Sun, Dec 17, 2017 at 1:13 PM

Subject: resignation letter

To: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, "Applegate, David" <applegate@usgs.gov>

Bill and Dave

Please see the attached. I would appreciate guidance on how I will proceed after I return to the US on Wednesday evening. I expect to be in to Reston and will ask Hirut to set me up with HR for exit proceedings - though I will not mention the exit proceedings in my email to her today.

sincerely

murray

--
Murray W. Hitzman
U. S. Geological Survey
Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192
703-648-4576

 resignation letter.pdf
40K



Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>

resignation letter

Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
To: "Applegate, David" <applegate@usgs.gov>

Sun, Dec 17, 2017 at 1:55 PM

Dave

I cannot begin to state how I value your friendship and advice - during the past year in particular but before that as well. If there is anything I can do to help the Survey going forward, please call on me. My most sincere wish now is that this does not injury you, Bill, or the Survey in any way. I will have my USGS phone in Ireland that is cleared for work there. I have asked Hirut to set up a meeting with me with HR on Thursday morning. Uncharted and unexpected waters indeed! However (b) (6)

all be very very best
murray

On Sun, Dec 17, 2017 at 1:32 PM, Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:
Murray,

This deeply saddens me on multiple levels, but I understand. I'll work with Bill to figure out how we handle this with HR. To whatever degree we were already in uncharted waters, we are certainly there now. You know you go with my best wishes and highest regard.

Dave

David Applegate, Ph.D.
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--
Murray W. Hitzman
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Associate Director - Energy and Minerals
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102
Reston, VA. 20192

3/1/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - resignation letter

703-648-4576



Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>

resignation letter

David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>
To: laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov
Cc: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>

Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 11:39 AM

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111
Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600
applegate@usgs.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>
Date: December 17, 2017 at 6:10:37 PM EST
To: "Hitzman, Murray" <mhitzman@usgs.gov>
Cc: "Applegate, David" <applegate@usgs.gov>
Subject: Re: resignation letter

Murray: Although I am very disappointed, I understand completely and support your decision. In the short time you have been with USGS, the Energy and Minerals mission area has been transformed under your leadership. You will be sorely missed, but I am confident that we will still benefit from your contributions in whatever you choose as your next endeavor. Best of luck to you. -Bill

Sent from my iPad

On Dec 17, 2017, at 1:13 PM, Hitzman, Murray <mhitzman@usgs.gov> wrote:

Bill and Dave

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murray

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Murray W. Hitzman

U. S. Geological Survey

3/1/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - resignation letter

Associate Director - Energy and Minerals

12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102

Reston, VA. 20192

703-648-4576

<resignation letter.pdf>



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Re: resignation letter

1 message

Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>
To: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>
Bcc: jnowakowski@usgs.gov

Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 12:21 AM

Oh my gosh. Thanks for bcc'ing me. I'll call to see if you have a few minutes to talk tomorrow (was going to anyway).

On Dec 17, 2017, at 6:10 PM, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov> wrote:

Murray: Although I am very disappointed, I understand completely and support your decision. In the short time you have been with USGS, the Energy and Minerals mission area has been transformed under your leadership. You will be sorely missed, but I am confident that we will still benefit from your contributions in whatever you choose as your next endeavor. Best of luck to you. -Bill

Sent from my iPad

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>

> Bill and Dave

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> sincerely

> murray

>

> --

> Murray W. Hitzman

> U. S. Geological Survey

> Associate Director - Energy and Minerals

> 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., MS 102

> Reston, VA. 20192

> 703-648-4576

> <resignation letter.pdf>



Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>

Fwd: GSA- USGS Congressional Science Fellow

Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>

Sun, Jan 14, 2018 at 12:23 PM

To: Kevin Gallagher <kgallagher@usgs.gov>, Geoff Plumlee <gplumlee@usgs.gov>, John Haines <jhaines@usgs.gov>

Cc: David Diamond <dbdiamond@usgs.gov>, Mark Naftzger <mnaftzge@usgs.gov>, Trent Richardson

<trichardson@usgs.gov>

Kevin, Geoff, and John,

I received the note below from Kasey White at the Geological Society of America. It appears that Murray has been serving as the USGS rep to the [GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellowship](#) selection committee, so his departure means we need to identify a new rep. The primary work of the committee is review of applications in February and then in-person interviews on Saturday, March 3rd.

I can't do it, because I already agreed to review AGU congressional fellow applications this year.

Kasey notes that Murray inherited the role of USGS rep from Larry Meinert, who -- like Murray and me both -- was a congressional fellow. I think Peter Lyttle did it for many years before that and perhaps there were others as well -- it is a long-standing partnership. Since Larry is retiring this month, my inclination is not to ask him to take this on as an emeritus duty, but whoever we pick should have a good sense of what qualities would make for a successful scientist-as-Hill staffer.

One option would be to ask Julia Jester or Brian Cole, both of whom served as scientists on the Hill (Brian as a SeaGrant fellow and Julia as a regular staffer).

The history here is that when the mission areas were stood up, the NH, CSS, and EM mission areas "inherited" support for this CSF from the old Geologic Discipline in proportion to the GD programs they incorporated. I have a vague recollection that there may have been a subsequent swap to simplify the accounting (and I'm not sure who ended up with it), but it remains largely a GD legacy regardless.

Please let me know if you have thoughts on this or would like to put heads together. We should try to get an answer back to Kasey in the next week or two since the committee work heats up in February. Whoever we choose should ideally be available to spend their Saturday in downtown DC interviewing the finalists on March 3rd.

Thanks, Dave

David Applegate, Ph.D.

Associate Director for Natural Hazards

Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director

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applegate@usgs.govOn Fri, Jan 12, 2018 at 1:39 PM Kasey White <kwhite@geosociety.org> wrote:

Hi Dave,

Happy New Year! It was so nice to see your family at the holidays!

I'm writing because Murray was the USGS rep on the GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellowship selection committee. The committee's work is heating up, with applications due February 1 and interviews on Saturday, March 3. Larry Meinert had been the rep before Murray but will be USGS emeritus during the process. Would you be interested/available to serve? Or do you think having Larry as an emeritus rep would work?

Hope you are doing ok.

Kasey

--

3/1/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: GSA- USGS Congressional Science Fellow

Kasey White
Director for Geoscience Policy
Geological Society of America
[1200 New York Avenue, NW Suite 400](#)
[Washington DC 20005](#)
kwhite@geosociety.org
[202.669.0466](tel:202.669.0466)



Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Meetings Newsletter: 27 December

Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>
 To: "Plumlee, Geoffrey" <gplumlee@usgs.gov>

Thu, Dec 28, 2017 at 2

Sure thing. If it proves untenable come February and the budget release, I'm sure we can figure something out.

 David Applegate, Ph.D.
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applegate@usgs.gov

On Thu, Dec 28, 2017 at 10:35 AM, Plumlee, Geoffrey <gplumlee@usgs.gov> wrote:

Yes, I am indeed fortunate to have such a capable group in place. I hope to have a "connections 101" from Larry before he retires in January, so that I can ID and start to get to know all the many people he and Murray have worked with outside the USGS. I similarly have asked for a "Energy assessment 101" from Walter and Dave Houseknecht so that I can get better versed in that topic.

Speaking of redirection, I hope to have a discussion with you, Bill, and OCAP(?) regarding how I can defend against the complete EH redirection to (b) (5) without at the same time being perceived by DOI as in a conflict position with the add to EM.

Geoffrey S. Plumlee, Ph.D.
 Associate Director
 Environmental Health
 U.S. Geological Survey
 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS102
 Reston, VA 20192
 Phone: (703) 648-6403
 Fax: (703) 648-7031
gplumlee@usgs.gov
<https://profile.usgs.gov/gplumlee>

See our web sites:

www.usgs.gov
<http://www.usgs.gov/envirohealth/>
http://minerals.cr.usgs.gov/projects/minerals_health/environmental-disasters.html

On Thu, Dec 28, 2017 at 10:23 AM, Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:

The biggest challenge for EM is being loved to death -- all the things the Department wants the energy and (to a lesser extent) minerals programs to do without much if any new money, which could adversely impact other work. Redirection of people is one thing, but if we have to put up big money for things like seismic surveys, then that would be at the expense of people redirected or otherwise.

The good news is that Murray has left behind a good team with strong program coordinators who can do the stand-in-front action as well as taking care of things internally. Indeed, one challenge will be figuring out how best to deploy Sarah Ryker and Dave Diamond to best effect given that each of the programs can stand on their own to a large degree. That's just my sense looking in from the outside -- I'm sure there is plenty to do!

Dave

 David Applegate, Ph.D.
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applegate@usgs.gov

On Thu, Dec 28, 2017 at 10:05 AM, Geoffrey Plumlee <gplumlee@usgs.gov> wrote:

Thanks much for sending this along. I am steeling myself for the municipal-size fire hose from which I am about to start drinking...

On Thu, Dec 28, 2017 at 9:59 AM Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:

Here it is. No comments yet...

Geoff Plumlee is the New Acting Associate Director for Energy and Minerals

By [The Director's Office](#) | [All-Employee Memos](#), [Employee Recognition](#), [Energy & Minerals](#), [NeedToKnow: Important Update](#), [Personnel Change](#) | [No Comments](#) December 22, 2017

Tags: [Executive Leadership Team \(ELT\)](#)

Murray Hitzman, Associate Director (AD) for Energy and Minerals, has decided to resign from the USGS. Murray ably served as AD since August 2016. He capably represented us on Capitol Hill and strengthened our standing with key stakeholders and partners. We will miss Murray's strong contributions to the USGS and wish him well in his future career endeavors.

Geoff Plumlee, currently the AD for Environmental Health, will also serve as the acting AD for Energy and Minerals. Geoff previously acted in this position from April to August 2015. As acting AD for Energy and Minerals, he will oversee the research and assessments conducted on the location, quantity, and quality of mineral and energy resources, including the

economic and environmental effects of resource extraction and use. Geoff holds a bachelor's of science in geology from the University of New Mexico, and a master's and doctorate in geochemistry from Harvard University. Geoff is a lead author or co-author of over 130 publications, many in journals or texts from disciplines such as environmental geochemistry, public health, natural hazards, economic geology, and geology.

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Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
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12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111, Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov

On Thu, Dec 28, 2017 at 9:47 AM, Geoffrey Plumlee <gplumlee@usgs.gov> wrote:
OK, thanks for letting me know. For some reason I cannot remotely access internal.usgs.gov, even when using pulse vpn. I will have to have IT check that after the holidays.

On Wed, Dec 27, 2017 at 2:31 PM David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:
I just looked on internal.usgs.gov, and it is there under "Memos and News" tab Tagged as an all-employee email but didn't go out as email. Since there was no Need to Know this week, it will likely appear on Tuesday, Jan. 2 NTK.

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111
Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600
applegate@usgs.gov

On Dec 27, 2017, at 2:27 PM, Geoffrey Plumlee <gplumlee@usgs.gov> wrote:

I know, right?!!!

When they told me about it at the recent AGU council meeting and asked if I would be attending, I told them (al)most certainly not...

Any news about an announcement coming out re EM? Getting questions still, even from outside...

On Wed, Dec 27, 2017 at 2:21 PM David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov> wrote:
Bermuda?!?

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111
Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600
applegate@usgs.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: American Geophysical Union <aguservice@agu.org>
Date: December 27, 2017 at 2:06:14 PM EST
To: <applegate@usgs.gov>
Subject: Meetings Newsletter: 27 December

[Click here to access the web version of this message.](#)

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As part of AGU's expanding efforts on the topic of GeoHealth, along with the [recent formation of a GeoHealth section](#), AGU has partnered with several societies for the Geoscience and Society Summit, taking place 23–28 September 2018 in Hamilton, Bermuda. The summit aims to create a highly interactive forum for effective cooperation between scientists and users of scientific information to tackle global and local challenges around sustainability of natural resources and systems, global health, and resilience. [Learn more](#).

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Fall Meeting Fun Run Results!

[View the results](#) of the 8th annual AGU 5K Fun Run/Walk at Fall Meeting in New Orleans! Congratulations to all 338 participants for braving the cold in a new city to support our [Bright STARS program](#). Thank you for making it a great event, and we look forward to having you join us next year in Washington!

Editor's Note

Final Meetings Newsletter

This is the final edition of the Meetings newsletter. Instead, you will begin receiving [AGU Universe](#) every Thursday beginning 11 January 2018, so you can receive information and deadlines relevant to your science on a more frequent and timely basis. If you do not start receiving AGU Universe in 2018, you can [sign up for it here](#).

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Important Dates and Deadlines

11–16 February 2018
Ocean Sciences Meeting
Portland, Oregon, USA
Early registration deadline: 3 January 2018
Housing deadline: 17 January 2018

4–9 March 2018
Chapman Conference on Particle Dynamics in the Earth's Radiation Belts
Cascais, Portugal

18–23 March 2018
Chapman Conference on Stratospheric Aerosol in the Post-Pinatubo Era: Processes, Interactions, and Importance
Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain

25–27 September 2018
Chapman Conference on Hydrologic Research in the Congo Basin
Washington, D.C., USA

10–14 December 2018
AGU Fall Meeting
Washington, D.C., USA

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2000 Florida Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009-1277

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Geoffrey S. Plumlee, PhD
Associate Director, Environmental Health
US Geological Survey
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Reston, VA 20192
(703) 648-6403
gplumlee@usgs.gov

...

[Message clipped]



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Draft message on murray's departure

1 message

Werkheiser, William <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>

Thu, Dec 21, 2017 at 5:53 PM

To: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, "Bushee, Stacy" <scurtis@usgs.gov>, Judy J Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Joanne C Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>

Hi Heather and Laura: Here is our proposed message for internal posting for USGS employees. It is modeled off our standard message when a member of our executive leadership team leaves USGS. An example from the recent past is pasted below.

Transition Memo for Ray Campbell. Posted to Memos and News on @theCore

Chief for the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity Ray Campbell Leaving with Jim Mays Acting

Ray Campbell has accepted a position with the Defense Security Service at Quantico. His last day as Chief of the USGS Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (DEO) was October 28, 2016. As the Chief of the DEO, Ray provided guidance, training, and other assistance on equal employment opportunity (EEO) and diversity-related matters to managers, supervisors, and employees. In his year at the USGS, Ray managed the discrimination complaints programs and coordinated hearings and appeals with the Department of the Interior Office of Civil Rights, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Office of the Solicitor. In addition, Ray pioneered the quarterly DEO Times newsletter, revamped the Special Emphasis program, and updated EEO/diversity policies and procedures. His diligent and active engagement with employees across the Bureau will be greatly missed. The USGS is grateful for Ray's service and wishes him the best in his new role.

Jim Mays, EEO Manager for the USGS Counseling and Mediation Program, assumed responsibilities as Acting Chief of the DEO on October 31, 2016. Jim has extensive experience as an equal opportunity manager within the DEO and has previously served as acting chief.

our proposed message for Murray's departure is:

Transition Memo -- Memos and News

Geoff Plumlee is the New Acting Associate Director for Energy and Minerals

Murray Hitzman, Associate Director Associate Director (AD) for Energy and Minerals, has decided to leave the USGS. Murray ably served as AD since August 2016. Under his leadership, the Energy and Minerals Mission Area has been transformed. He capably represented us on Capitol Hill and strengthened our standing with key stakeholders and partners. We will miss Murray's strong contributions to the USGS and wish him well in his future career endeavors.

Geoff Plumlee, currently the AD for Environmental Health, will also serve as the acting AD for Energy and Minerals. Geoff previously acted in this position from April to August 2015. As acting AD for Energy and Minerals, he will oversee the research and assessments conducted on the location, quantity, and quality of mineral and energy resources, including the economic and environmental effects of resource extraction and use. Geoff holds a bachelor's of science in geology from the University of New Mexico, and a master's and doctorate in geochemistry from Harvard University. Geoff is a lead author or co-author of over 130 publications, many in journals or texts from disciplines such as environmental geochemistry, public health, natural hazards, economic geology, and geology.

Appreciate your thoughts. -Bill

William H. Werkheiser
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 100
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-7411



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Hitzman draft email

1 message

Werkheiser, William <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>

Tue, Dec 19, 2017 at 2:31 PM

To: Andrea Travnicsek <andrea_travnicsek@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Judy J Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Andrea: FYI. In closing the communication loop with Laura, I sent her the following draft announcement concerning Murray's departure. We are getting lots of staff inquiries because emails to him are bouncing back to the senders. It would be disastrous if USGS employees hear about the departure through media channels (to date, I have not received any inquiries from media outlets). -Bill

Hi Laura: Below is a draft message on Murray's departure. We tried to give a positive tone so that other rumors (like a disciplinary removal) weren't encouraged. Appreciate your thoughts. -Bill

Yesterday afternoon, I had the unhappy experience of accepting the resignation of Murray Hitzman from the USGS. Murray ably served as the Associate Director (AD) for Energy and Minerals since August 2016. In a short time, the Energy and Minerals Mission Area has been transformed under his leadership. He capably represented us on Capitol Hill and strengthened our standing with key stakeholders and partners. We will miss Murray's strong contributions to the USGS and wish him well in his future career endeavors.

Please join me as we thank Murray for his solid leadership and commitment to our science mission.

I have asked Geoff Plumlee, our Associate Director for Environmental Health, to act as AD for Energy and Minerals.

Bill

William H. Werkheiser
Acting Director, U.S. Geological Survey
[12201 Sunrise Valley Drive](#), MS 100
Reston, VA 20192
703-648-7411



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Re: Draft text for all employee email -- Murray Hitzman

1 message

Taylor, Joanne <jctaylor@usgs.gov>

Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 5:25 PM

To: "Curtis, Stacy" <scurtis@usgs.gov>

Cc: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Stacy and Bill -- I like it! -- Joanne

Joanne C. Taylor, USGS
Deputy Chief of Staff, Reston, VA
703-648-6837; jctaylor@usgs.gov

On Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 5:14 PM, Curtis, Stacy <scurtis@usgs.gov> wrote:

Please see revised version below (also updated at the same Google link):

Yesterday afternoon, I had the unhappy experience of accepting the resignation of Murray Hitzman from the USGS. Murray ably served as the Associate Director (AD) for Energy and Minerals since August 2016. In a short time, the Energy and Minerals Mission Area has been transformed under his leadership. He capably represented us on Capitol Hill and strengthened our standing with key stakeholders and partners. We will miss Murray's strong contributions to the USGS and wish him well in his future career endeavors.

Please join me as we thank Murray for his solid leadership and commitment to our science mission. I look forward to our paths continuing to cross in the future.

I have asked Geoff Plumlee, our Associate Director for Environmental Health, to act as AD for Energy and Minerals.

Bill

On Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 4:51 PM, Curtis, Stacy <scurtis@usgs.gov> wrote:

Hello,

Below and at the link included herein, is draft text for an all employee email regarding Murray's resignation.

 [All ee email - Murray Hitzman 12.19.17](#)

----- DRAFT -----

Yesterday afternoon, I had the unhappy experience of having to accept the resignation of Murray Hitzman from the USGS. Murray ably served as the Associate Director for Energy and Minerals since August 2016, and capably represented us on the Hill in a number of testimonies as our top scientist in the energy area. We will miss Murray's strong contributions and wish him well in his future career endeavors.

Please join me as we thank Murray for his solid leadership and sound scientific input. I look forward to our paths continuing to cross in the future.

Bill

--

Stacy Curtis

US Geological Survey (USGS)

Internal Communications Officer/Office of Communications & Publishing (OCAP)

12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 119, Reston, VA 20192

703.648.7454 desk 703.863.0125 cell

--

Stacy Curtis

US Geological Survey (USGS)

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703.648.7454 desk 703.863.0125 cell

Transition Memo -- Memos and News

Geoff Plumlee is the New Acting Associate Director for Energy and Minerals

Murray Hitzman, Associate Director (AD) for Energy and Minerals, has decided to resign from the USGS. Murray ably served as AD since August 2016. He capably represented us on Capitol Hill and strengthened our standing with key stakeholders and partners. We will miss Murray's strong contributions to the USGS and wish him well in his future career endeavors.

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Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Greenwire - FYI

1 message

Jester, Julia <jjester@usgs.gov>

Tue, Feb 27, 2018 at 1:44 PM

To: David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>, Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>

Julia Jester, Ph.D.
 Congressional Liaison Officer
 U.S. Geological Survey
 o: 703-648-4300 c: 571-352-4677

INTERIOR**Dems ask Zinke about alleged improper request for energy data**

Kellie Lunney, E&E News reporter
 Published: Tuesday, February 27, 2018



Lawmakers asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about resignations at the U.S. Geological Survey. Lance Cheung/Agriculture Department

House Natural Resources Committee Democrats want answers about an alleged request from Interior's political leaders for energy development potential in Alaska before career scientists officially published the data.

Ranking member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Rep. Donald McEachin (D-Va.) sent a [letter](#) today to Secretary Ryan Zinke asking for all documents related to "potential early delivery of the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska assessment to the secretary or deputy secretary."

Two top employees at the U.S. Geological Survey recently left the agency in protest over what they said was an improper request for information about oil and gas data within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska before the final report came out Dec. 22. That report estimated that the NPR-A and nearby lands could hold 17.6 billion barrels of recoverable oil and more than 50 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Mother Jones magazine first reported on the departures of Murray Hitzman and Larry Meinert ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 22).

USGS policy states that "particularly sensitive results ... such as energy and mineral resource assessments and mineral commodity reports that typically have significant economic implications are not disclosed or shared in advance of public release because pre-release in these cases could result in unfair advantage or the perception of unfair advantage."

But the [policy](#) leaves some wiggle room for potential pre-release of information to agencies and other organizations under certain circumstances.

Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift last week cited a determination from the department solicitor's office that the secretary and deputy secretary retain "the authority to review data, draft reports, or other information as [they deem] necessary."

And William Werkheiser, the USGS acting director, added in a statement at the time: "I do not believe that current or proposed practices for the notification of DOI leadership constitutes a loss of scientific integrity. I do not see the issue outlined as one of scientific integrity. In fact, at no time was USGS asked to change or alter any of the findings for the assessment."

The Democrats' letter asks whether Zinke or Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt asked for and reviewed the NPR-A assessment before its official release and whether the "early release of sensitive data" applies to them.

McEachin is the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (*E&E Daily*, Feb. 27).

The letter cited reports that Interior officials were warned ahead of time about possible ethical problems related to asking for the information before its public release but made the request anyway, arguing that the secretary had a legal right to see the data beforehand.

"It was allegedly not until Dr. Hitzman submitted his resignation on Dec. 17, 2017 that DOI suddenly reversed its pursuit, claiming it was never requested," the Democrats wrote. "If reports are true, the incident would be the latest in a troubling series of attacks on scientific integrity and ethical lapses, at DOI."

Reporter Michael Doyle contributed.

Julia Jester, Ph.D.
Congressional Liaison Officer
U.S. Geological Survey
o: 703-648-4300 c: 571-352-4677



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Re: Article

1 message

Timothy Petty <timothy_petty@ios.doi.gov>
 To: Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>
 Cc: Andrea Travnicek <andrea_travnicek@ios.doi.gov>

Sat, Feb 24, 2018 at 10:30 AM

Thank you Judy.

Tim

On Feb 24, 2018, at 2:06 AM, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov> wrote:

Hi Tim and Andrea, we wanted to be sure you saw this. Thanks!


INTERIOR**Ex-USGS official questions Cabinet members' expertise**

Michael Doyle, E&E News reporter
 Published: Friday, February 23, 2018

Former U.S. Geological Survey official Larry Meinert says he's grown "rather cynical" about the confirmation process that awaits the ex-astronaut nominated to head the science agency.

Meinert, who retired from USGS on Jan. 31 with a blast at the Interior Department's political leadership, attributes his disenchantment to seeing how other Trump administration nominees have fared on Capitol Hill.

"I would normally suggest that candidates be asked about their knowledge of what the organization does that they have been nominated to lead," Meinert said in an email. "But already confirmed cabinet heads ... have demonstrated that knowing absolutely nothing about the organization is not disqualifying."

 Larry Meinert. Photo credit: Society of Economic Geologists

Larry Meinert. Society of Economic Geologists

Pointedly, Meinert added that "with this administration it just doesn't make much difference."

The Trump administration's USGS nominee, James Reilly, is currently awaiting his confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Reilly, who holds a doctorate in geology from the University of Texas, Dallas, and

flew in space three times as a shuttle mission specialist, appears to be a noncontroversial candidate ([Greenwire](#), Jan. 30).

Still, for Democratic senators, including ranking member Maria Cantwell of Washington, this hearing will provide a chance to press for answers and commitments. One topic is bound to be the circumstances surrounding the departure of Meinert and a USGS colleague.

Meinert left USGS in the wake of what he considered to be an improper request for energy information from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Meinert and fellow USGS official Murray Hiltzman, who resigned Dec. 17, 2017, say Zinke breached scientific integrity policies when he sought information on the energy potential within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska prior to its official publication ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 22).

Those departures continued to resonate today, with a lawmaker calling for an Office of Inspector General investigation.

"Congress and the American people deserve a full explanation of how, why, and at whose direction the Trump administration disregarded the fundamental science practices that prior administrations have adhered to and that citizens count on," Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) wrote.

McCollum is the senior Democrat on the House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

"It is unfortunate that administration policies and actions have led to the loss of significant expertise, such as Dr. Hiltzman and myself, that the administration and the nation sorely need to lead the country, economy, and national security forward," Meinert said.

Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift countered yesterday that a determination from the department solicitor's office said the secretary and deputy secretary retain "the authority to review data, draft reports, or other information as [they deem] necessary."

William Werkheiser, the USGS acting director, added in a statement that "I do not see the issue outlined as one of scientific integrity. In fact, at no time was USGS asked to change or alter any of the findings for the assessment."

For all the heat surrounding his departure, Meinert said he leaves with "pride about a job well done" at the USGS Energy and Mineral Resources Program.

"The program is now on a path to success," Meinert said, adding, "that success is important for the USGS and the nation."

Meinert remains editor-in-chief of a leading scientific journal, *Economic Geology*. He is an adjunct professor at several universities and is also called upon to help evaluate major mineral

3/1/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: Article

discoveries around the globe.

"Thus, I have a lot on my plate that I am now free to devote more time to and that I partly stepped away from for the past six years to devote myself to public service," Meinert said.

David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111, Reston VA 20192
703 648 6800 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Re: article

1 message

Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Sat, Feb 24, 2018 at 1:52 AM

To: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>

Cc: David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>

Bcc: jnowakowski@usgs.gov

we're thinking assumed identity... Thanks!

On Feb 23, 2018, at 10:01 PM, William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov> wrote:

Sure. Especially like Murray's picture as Larry.

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 23, 2018, at 6:22 PM, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov> wrote:

Hi Bill, okay to forward to W&S (if it hasn't been already)? Thanks!

INTERIOR**Ex-USGS official questions Cabinet members' expertise**


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 Larry Meinert. Photo credit: Society of Economic Geologists

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Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

article

1 message

Applegate, David <applegate@usgs.gov>

To: Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 2:17 PM

The only thing you miss in not seeing it on the web is that the photo of Larry Meinert is actually a photo of Murray Hitzman (or is it?)

INTERIOR

Ex-USGS official questions Cabinet members' expertise


Michael Doyle, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, February 23, 2018

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3/1/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - article

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David Applegate, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Natural Hazards
Exercising Authority of the Deputy Director
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive MS 111, Reston VA 20192
703 648 6600 voice, 703 648 7031 fax
applegate@usgs.gov



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Media inquires Re:Mother Jones Article

1 message

Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 2:17 PM

To: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>

fyi

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ethridge, Max** <methridge@usgs.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 1:34 PM

Subject: Fwd: Media inquires Re:Mother Jones Article

To: David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>

Cc: Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Dave,

FYI on this email string, in case you have not already seen this.

Max

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Day, Warren** <wday@usgs.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 11:15 AM

Subject: Fwd: Media inquires Re:Mother Jones Article

To: GS-EMEH GGGSC Federal Employees <gs-emeh_gggsc_federal_employees@usgs.gov>, GS-EMEH GGGSC Non-Federal Employees <gs-emeh_gggsc_non-federal_employees@usgs.gov>, GS-EMEH GGGSC Emeritus_Volunteers <gs-emeh_gggsc_emeritus_volunteers@usgs.gov>

Cc: Peter G Griffiths <pggriffi@usgs.gov>, "Ethridge, Max" <methridge@usgs.gov>, Thomas Crafford <tcrafford@usgs.gov>

And, here is the follow up on if you get any media inquiries on the Mother Jones article regarding Murray's resignation. Please direct any inquiries to Hannah Hamilton in our public affairs office. This is not a subject our Center needs to handle.

Thanks,
Warren

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Crafford, Thomas** <tcrafford@usgs.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 10:59 AM

Subject: Fwd: Media inquires Re:Mother Jones Article

To: Daniel Hayba <dhayba@usgs.gov>, Warren Day <wday@usgs.gov>, Colin Williams <colin@usgs.gov>, Marti Miller <mimiller@usgs.gov>

Cc: Suzanne Nicholson <swnich@usgs.gov>, Patricia Loferski <ploferski@usgs.gov>, "Plumlee, Geoffrey" <gplumlee@usgs.gov>

All,

Most, or all, of you have probably heard that an article about Murray's resignation has been published in Mother Jones Magazine. The Office of Communications has directed that inquiries be forwarded to Hannah Hamilton (see accompanying email).

I believe Colin has already distributed Hannah's email to his staff.

Tom

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Frank, David** <dfrank@usgs.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 12:01 PM

Subject: Fwd: Media inquires Re:Mother Jones Article

To: Thomas Crafford <tcrafford@usgs.gov>, Suzanne Nicholson <swnich@usgs.gov>, Patricia Loferski <ploferski@usgs.gov>

Not sure this has gone out to all MRP staff or not. I got it through OC.

Dave

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Paul Laustsen** <plaustsen@usgs.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 8:35 AM

Subject: Fwd: Media inquires Re:Mother Jones Article

To: David Frank <dfrank@usgs.gov>

Paul C. Laustsen
U.S. Geological Survey
Office of Communications
plaustsen@usgs.gov
650-329-4046
Sent from my iPhone

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." — African Proverb

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hamilton, Hannah" <hhamilton@usgs.gov>

Date: February 21, 2018 at 8:28:54 AM PST

To: GS-DO-OCAP-COLT <gs-do-ocap-colt@usgs.gov>, GS-DO-OCAP-OC-PA <gs-do-ocap-oc-pa@usgs.gov>, USGS OCAP East <GS-DO-OCAP-OC-East@usgs.gov>, GS-DO-OCAP-OC-Central <gs-do-ocap-oc-central@usgs.gov>, GS-DO-OCAP-OC-West <gs-do-ocap-oc-west@usgs.gov>

Subject: Media inquires Re:Mother Jones Article

All -- If you and your team members get media inquires regarding the story below please send them to me.
Thanks, Hannah

<https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/02/usgs-interior-zinke-alaska/#>

Hannah M. Hamilton, Ph.D./ Acting Deputy Public Affairs Officer / U.S. Geological Survey
703-648-4356 (office)/703-314-1601 (cell)/ hhamilton@usgs.gov

--
David G. Frank - U.S. Geological Survey
Mineral Resources Program Outreach
GMEG, Spokane office
904 W. Riverside Ave., #202
Spokane, WA 99201

(509) 368-3107 office

(509) 370-4871 cell

"Time is simply how you live your life" - Craig Sager

--

Thomas (Tom) C. Crafford
USGS Mineral Resources Program Coordinator

U. S. Geological Survey
913 National Center
[12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.](#)
[Reston, VA 20192 USA](#)

Phone: 703-648-6108
Mobile: 703-638-8947
Email: tcrafford@usgs.gov

--

Warren C. Day
Acting Center Director
Geology, Geophysics, and Geochemistry Science Center
U.S. Geological Survey
Mail Stop 973, Denver Federal Center
Lakewood, CO 80225
Office: 303-236-6484
Cell: 303-345-4742
Fax: 303-236-1811
e-mail: wday@usgs.gov
ORCID number: 0000-0002-9278-2120

--

Max M Ethridge, PhD
US Geological Survey
Regional Director, Southwest Region
P.O. Box 25046 MS 911
Denver, CO 80225-0046

303-236-5548 office
573-999-0198 cell
email: methridge@usgs.gov



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Fwd: Federman's article in Mother Jones

1 message

Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 1:14 PM

To: Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Walter Guidroz** <wguidroz@usgs.gov>

Date: Wed, Feb 21, 2018 at 9:44 AM

Subject: Federman's article in Mother Jones

To: William Werkheiser <whwerkhe@usgs.gov>, David Applegate <applegate@usgs.gov>, Judy Nowakowski <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

FYI, Adam Federman's article came out today in Mother Jones. It'll be interesting to see what other media outlets pick up the story:

"A Government Scientist Resigned in Protest After the Trump Administration Demanded Sensitive Oil Data"

<https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2018/02/usgs-interior-zinke-alaska/>



Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Re: please review: Director's Staff Meeting notes (1/16)

1 message

Nowakowski, Judy <jnowakowski@usgs.gov>

Tue, Jan 23, 2018 at 2:05 PM

To: "Taylor, Joanne" <jctaylor@usgs.gov>

makes sense, thanks!

On Tue, Jan 23, 2018 at 12:59 PM, Taylor, Joanne <jctaylor@usgs.gov> wrote:

Judy ... hope this advice was okay with you? ... I told Elizabeth that we could always include it in next week's notes ... --
Joanne

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Diamond** <dbdiamond@usgs.gov>

Date: Tue, Jan 23, 2018 at 11:39 AM

Subject: Re: please review: Director's Staff Meeting notes (1/16)

To: "Stewart, P. Elizabeth" <pestewart@usgs.gov>

Cc: "Lerch, Harry" <hlerch@usgs.gov>, Joanne Taylor <jctaylor@usgs.gov>

That's fine with me.

Dave

David B Diamond, Ph.D.

Deputy Associate Director for Energy and Minerals

U.S. Geological Survey

703-648-6616 work

703-715-7565 USGS cell

703-477-4101 personal cell

On Jan 23, 2018, at 11:29 AM, Stewart, P. Elizabeth <pestewart@usgs.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Terry. I just spoke with Joanne Taylor about this. As it is rather sensitive, we will play it safe and take it out for now.

Gratefully,
ElizabethOn Tue, Jan 23, 2018 at 7:02 AM, Lerch, Harry <hlerch@usgs.gov> wrote:
Elizabeth,

I believe that the statement " Dave Diamond noted that we have received three FOIA requests related to Murray Hitzman's resignation, and they are starting to process them" should be included in the notes.

Terry Lerch

On Fri, Jan 19, 2018 at 9:57 AM, Stewart, P. Elizabeth <pestewart@usgs.gov> wrote:
Hi all,

Here are the draft Director's Staff Meeting notes for this week. Please review your section and make any edits directly in the document by Monday at noon.

 **January 16, 2018**

Gratefully,
Elizabeth

Patricia Elizabeth Stewart
Internal Communications Team
Office of Communications and Publishing
U.S. Geological Survey
703-648-4409

Harry (Terry) Lerch
Energy & Minerals Mission Area
U.S. Geological Survey
[12201 Sunrise Valley Drive](#), Mail Stop 913
Reston, VA 20192
tlrch@usgs.gov
703-648-6278

Patricia Elizabeth Stewart
Internal Communications Team
Office of Communications and Publishing
U.S. Geological Survey
703-648-4409